

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 4-6 are pending herein. Claim 1 has been amended as supported by Fig. 3 of the present application, for example.

Examiner Vanaman is thanked for courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned representative during two telephonic interviews on July 6, 2006. The substance of those interviews has been incorporated into the following remarks.

During the second telephonic interview, Examiner Vanaman tentatively agreed that the claim amendments outlined above, including the phrase "substantially along a center longitudinal axis," would overcome the recited prior art of record.

1. Claims 1, 5 and 6 were rejected under §102(b) over Emig, and claim 4 was rejected under §103(b) over Emig. To the extent that these rejections may be applied against the amended claims, it is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a gliding board, comprising a gliding surface that terminates in at least one raised end, the end beginning at a low point along the gliding surface and extending to a highest point, the end having a peripheral zone and a central zone. The peripheral zone is connected to the central zone by a discontinuity that forms an inflection. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that a vertex of the discontinuity extends to a highest point of the discontinuity along the end at a point substantially along a center longitudinal axis of the gliding board.

Applicants respectfully submit that a gliding board having the features recited in amended claim 1 is less likely to crack in the central zone in a raised end of the gliding board. As disclosed in the present application on page 1, line 35 -- page 2, line 13, having all of the layers of a gliding board terminate at one location in the end of the ski concentrates all of the mechanical stresses at one location. This concentration of stress causes cracking in the central zone of the end when the end collides with an obstacle, another ski or merely the snow, causing a whiplash movement of the end. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that merely removing

or limiting the central zone in the end of the gliding board, as is disclosed in Emig, would result in an end that is too weak to function as desired in the gliding board of the present application.

Emig discloses, in Fig. 6, a gliding board having a central zone formed by two reinforcing ribs 20, 21, which terminate at a discontinuity shown in Fig. 6 as two arc shapes on the end portion 2 of the gliding board. The discontinuity formed by the structures 20, 21 has a lowest point located along a center longitudinal axis of the gliding board. The discontinuity extends in two directions from the lowest point located along the center longitudinal axis of the gliding board to highest points of the discontinuity located approximately half way between the center longitudinal axis of the gliding board and the sides of the gliding board. Accordingly, the highest points are not located anywhere near the central longitudinal axis, especially since the lowest point is located on the central longitudinal axis. Therefore, Emig fails to disclose or suggest a gliding board comprising an end having a peripheral zone being connected to a central zone by a discontinuity that forms an inflection, wherein a vertex of the discontinuity extends to a highest point of the discontinuity along the end at a point substantially along a center longitudinal axis of the gliding board, as recited in claim 1. Since claims 4, 5 and 6 depend directly from claim 1, those claims are also believed to be allowable over the applied prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims herein define patentable subject matter over the art of record. Accordingly, Examiner Vanaman is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for this application in due course.

If Examiner Vanaman believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

July 28, 2006

Date

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